

**Description of proposal:**

The Silent Alder timber sale, application No. 30-084836, and attached Forest Practice Application 2610263, is a variable retention harvest (VRH) and uneven-aged harvest (UAH) composed of 7 units and associated right-of-way. The initial area of the proposal evaluated 249 acres for harvest. 57 acres were removed from harvest by installation of riparian management zones, wetland management zones, and for buffering a bald eagle nest. Net cruise acreage for the sale is 192 acres with variable retention harvest of 162 acres, uneven-aged harvest of 20 acres, and 0.5 acre of right of way harvest. Existing roads and leave tree area clumps in all units add up to 10 acres. All area is within State Forest Board Trust Land in Jefferson County. The cruised harvest volume estimate is 4.6 MMBF. The Silent Alder Road Plan details 10,999 ft of prehaul maintenance, 1045 ft of reconstruction, 9639 ft of new construction, and 75 ft of deactivation.

**Description of mitigation:**Riparian and Wetland Management Zones (RMZ/WMZ):

Units 1 & 2 contain several wetlands located mainly in the NE portion of the proposal area. There are four wetlands that are over a quarter acre in size but under an acre. These wetlands are hydrologically connected and a managed buffer was designed based on a 150 ft site index. The buffer was adjusted based on topography; decreasing the area to the west and extending the area to the east, while maintaining an average buffer width of 150 ft. Some of the buffer to the east was then excluded from harvest to minimize equipment impacts to hydrology. The remaining WMZ buffer will be thinned. Four smaller wetlands were protected by establishing leave tree area clumps. Units 3, 4, & 5 are adjacent to a Type 3 stream and associated wetlands which bisect Unit 3. The RMZ was established by measuring a 150ft site index buffer from the edge of the Type 3 floodplain or by a 100ft buffer from the delineated wetland edge, whichever was greater. Unit 4 is separated from Unit 3 by a 100ft buffer around a mid-slope seep over a quarter acre in size. This buffer intersected the property line to the south and the RMZ to the north; necessitating a separate unit. Unit 5 is a 150ft site index buffer around a wetland that is over an acre in size. The buffer on the east side was extended 10ft to 160ft as mitigation for road construction through the southern end of the WMZ. Unit 6 is buffered from two Type 3 streams by a site index buffer of 150ft. Unit 7 is buffered from a Type 4 stream to the north by a 100ft RMZ. The harvest area is also buffered from a Type 3 stream with one associated wetland along the southeast edge. The buffer is a 150ft site index buffer from the edge of the floodplain or by a 100ft buffer from the delineated wetland edge, whichever was greater. (Procedure PR-14-004-150)

Northern Spotted Owl: Units 3, 4, and 5 fall on the edge of a status 3 owl circle. The units are located well away from the site center and away from the best 70 acres of habitat. The proposal area does not contain owl habitat as identified in the settlement agreement. (Procedure PR-14-004-120)

Bald Eagle: There is a known nest site for a breeding pair of bald eagles adjacent to Units 1 & 2. The nest is buffered from the harvest area by 400ft of no cut zone and an additional 400 ft of uneven-aged harvest. The thinning prescription for this zone was developed in collaboration with WDFW and a management plan was prepared. No tree cutting, clearing, heavy equipment operation, timber harvest operations, burning, or use of chemicals shall be allowed within the Timing Restriction Zone during the bald eagle breeding and nesting season from February 1- August 15.

Marbled Murrelet: The units do not include any released reclassified habitat. Procedure does not apply. (Procedure PR-14-004-320)

Pileated Woodpecker: There is a snag suspected of containing a Pileated Woodpecker nest in the northwest corner of Unit 3. A leave tree clump was established oriented around the snag to preserve the nest. (Procedure PR-14-004-290)

Slope Stability: There is an inner gorge adjacent to the southeast boundary of Unit 3. There are also inner gorges east of Unit 6 and southeast of Unit 7. Potentially unstable slopes are contained within the RMZs and are excluded from the harvest area. (Procedure PR-14-004-050)

Roads: Road construction and rock haul will not be permitted from November 1 to April 30 to prevent resource damage, unless authorized in writing by the Contract Administrator. Rock for this proposal may come from the Mid Coyle Pit or will be sourced commercially.

Rain on Snow: The proposal area is within three WAUs: the Chimakum WAU, Little Quil WAU, and Toandos Peninsula WAU. None of the proposal area is within the Peak Rain on Snow Zone; therefore, Procedure PR-14-006-040 does not apply.

Retention Trees: Leave trees are clumped in leave tree areas and scattered individually marked trees throughout the units. Leave trees within the proposed sale area average 8 per acre. Old growth residual trees were identified and protected. (Procedure PR-14-006-090)

**Proponent:** Department of Natural Resources – Olympic Region

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:**

Units 1 & 2 are in Section 28 of T29N R1W. The units lie between Beausite Lake and Gibbs Lake (County Parks). Walk-in access is via Gibbs Lake Rd. The haul route will be out new construction of the PT-V2000 and Beausite Lake Rd. Units 3, 4, and 5 are in Section 35 of T28N R2W. Access is via the PT-L3000 off of West Leland Valley Road. Unit 6 and the Mid Coyle Pit are in Section 26 of T27N R1W. Access is via the PT-C2200 off of Coyle Rd. Unit 7 is in Section 35 of T27N R1W. Access is via the PT-T1500 off of Thorndyke Rd.

**Lead agency:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ **There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.**

☒ **This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from November 5, 2009. Comments must be submitted by November 19, 2009**

**Responsible official** Susan K. Trettevik  
**Position/title** Acting Region Manager **Phone** 360-374-2800  
**Address** Department of Natural Resources - Olympic Region  
411 Tillicum Lane  
Forks, WA 98331

**Date** 10-26-09

**Signature** Susan K. Trettevik

**There is no agency SEPA appeal.** 11/09/00